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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5732

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CHEROKEE DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12065:RDS-3 4/18/00 (GLEYSTEEEN, W.H.) OR-M

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINR, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREA FOCUS: MEETING WITH CHUN DOO HWAN

REF: A. STATE 101856, B. SEOUL 4725

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. MY INSTRUCTIONS REF A DID NOT DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF MY SEEING CHUN DOO HWAN (M-R: CHON TU HWAN) AND I REQUEST PROMPT AUTHORIZATION TO DO SO. I HAVE SPOKEN VERY FRANKLY TO PRESIDENT CHOI AND I WANT TO FOLLOW THIS UP QUICKLY WITH A MEETING WITH CHUN BOTH TO STATE OUR POSITION TO HIM DIRECTLY AND TO SIGNIFY OUR WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH HIM AS A MAJOR LEADER. I AM CONVINCED AN EARLY MEETING WOULD BE BETTER FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF UNDERSTANDING OUR MESSAGE AND MINIMIZING THE FALL-OUT AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT DEALING WITH HIM. IF THE SESSION TAKES PLACE PROMPTLY, IT WILL BE ASSOCIATED IN MOST PEOPLES' MINDS WITH OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION. IF THE SESSION IS POSTPONED, IT IS MORE LIKELY TO APPEAR THAT WE ARE GIVING OUR BLESSING TO AN UPSTART. GLEYSTEEEN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A JOHNSTON  
DATE/CASE ID: 23 JUL 2003 199502728

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